



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 4-18-13

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, April 24th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Street Resurfacing in Cooper.
- 2) West River Parkway Reconstruction
- 3) Road Work in Seward
- 4) Transit Bill needs Support
- 5) Energy Options Study
- 6) Rental License Conditions
- 7) Bee Ordinance
- 8) Recreational Fires
- 9) Community Service Officers
- 10) City-wide Street Sweeping
- 11) Rain Garden Workshops
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) There was a meeting to discuss the extensive street resurfacing that will occur this year in the Cooper neighborhood between Lake and 34th Streets east of 36th Ave. You can find more details and updates about the project at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/all/WCMS1P-102052>.
- 2) This spring, West River Parkway will be repaved from 4th St S to Franklin Ave. This includes the ramps leading to and from Franklin. Road closures are scheduled to start on April 29th and will go for approximately 5 weeks. Because the paving work will be performed under full road closure, people planning to drive this stretch of the parkway will need to adjust plans accordingly. Bike paths and pedestrian walkways will be open and accessible. For specific questions you can contact me or Tracy Lindgren at tracy.lindgren@minneapolismn.gov from Public Works. You can also look for more information at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102050. I know this will be a significant inconvenience for many people, but this stretch has been in need of replacement for a long time and this project will result in a much better road surface.
- 3) In addition the street resurfacing work being done in Cooper this summer there will be paving projects coming up in Seward. The 31st Ave S resurfacing project will go on 31st Ave S between Franklin Ave and 28th St E. There will be additional mill and overlay work done in East Seward bounded on the north by 25th St E, 24th St E, on the northeast by Seabury Ave, on the south by the railroad line, and on the west by 28th and 29th Aves S. To learn more visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102062> and/or attend the community meeting 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 7, Matthews Recreation Center, 2313 28th Ave S.
- 4) A "Transit for a Stronger Economy" bill I strongly support seems to be in trouble at the legislature. Still there is hope that a bill with funding to increase bus service, support new Light Rail lines, Bus Rapid Transit and help create higher-amenity "Enhanced Bus" routes is possible. The bill is supported by over 50 organizations, including Transit for Livable Communities and the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee. It would use a small sales tax increase, like nearly all US regions, to fund transit. I urge you to contact your State Legislators and encourage them to support this incredible opportunity to provide stable, adequate funding for transit in Minneapolis. You can take action here: <http://www.mntransit.org/takeaction.asp?aid=7102>

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 5) The City Council has approved funding up to \$250,000 to study the issues related to our utility franchise and forming a municipal energy utility in Minneapolis. This is an important next step to getting the information we need to make future decisions about energy options in Minneapolis. The study will result in a comprehensive “Energy Vision” and complete a thorough review of the options and implications of the various pathways to meet the City’s energy goals. The resulting report will explore the various paths the City could take to achieve its energy goals, including examination of potential utility partnerships, changes to how the City uses energy utility franchise fees, and the potential for municipalization of one or both energy utilities. For more information, go to the City’s energy utilities franchise agreements web page at www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise
- 6) The Council has amended our ordinances to allow the City to impose conditions on rental license holders with significant and documented violations of the housing code. We also approve a set of operating procedures that clarify when and how the conditions would be imposed. Owners of rental properties were already required to have rental licenses for each of their properties and the City has the authority to conduct inspections and issue fines or even revoke licenses if license holders do not meet rental housing standards. Now, when a rental property owner is in violation of a rental licensing standard/s, the City could also place specific operating conditions on the rental license. Property owners must adhere to these conditions in order for their rental license to remain in good standing. To learn more about the procedures and see examples of conditions see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104736.pdf>. You can find the amendment here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105139.pdf>
- 7) The City Council approved an ordinance on keeping honeybees that removes the requirement for signatures of 80% of neighbors for any hive that is one or more stories off the ground. When honeybees leave their hives, they tend to fly upwards and quickly disperse, so a hive on a rooftop is likely to have very little effect on near neighbors. Before this passed I successfully moved an amendment that changes the City’s honeybee permitting process from an annual \$50 permit to a one-time City approval with a recurring free renewal.
- 8) The public hearing on the Recreational Fire ordinance amendment I am authoring will be held on **May 1st at 1:30 p.m.** at the Public Safety Civil Rights and Health Committee. I am proposing that we add an additional restriction to prohibit outdoor recreational fires during times of air quality alerts when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues an Air Pollution Health Advisory for the Twin Cities Area.
- 9) The Police Department is now taking applications for Community Service Officers, which is a civilian position with the possibility of promotion to a full time police officer position. A Community Service Officer (CSO) works at least 20 hours per week in the Department while enrolled as a full-time student in an approved, two-year Law Enforcement Program. Full time CSOs work 40 hours per week, after completing the Skills Program. See list of Local schools that offer a [two-year law enforcement degree programs](#). The City pays for all college tuition and books. CSOs assist the Police Department in a variety of non-enforcement activities. If a CSO succeeds in academic, fitness training, and job performance, he or she may be eligible for promotion to full-time police officer. Applications will be accepted through May 3. For more information, and to apply, visit the [police department website](#).
- 10) City crews have started cleaning all city streets and alleys. “No Parking” signs will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Folks can also use the City’s Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming go to www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping and click on “street sweeping schedule lookup,” to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept. You can also view streetsweeping videos at www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis
- 11) You can sign up for a \$15 workshop that will tell you what you need to know to start your own rain garden and make your green garden even greener running from mid-April to mid-June. The City of Minneapolis sponsors Metro Blooms workshops as part of its effort to improve water quality in the city. More than 6,000 metro residents have attended Metro Blooms rain garden workshops since 2005 and installed more than 2,000 rain gardens. For more information and to register, go to www.metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Heritage Preservation Commission, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee, and Telecommunications Network, Minneapolis. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings